

Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment, D.C.

PUBLIC HEARING - September 13, 1967

Appeal No. 9364 Ida S. Taylor, appellant.

The Zoning Administrator of the District of Columbia, appellee.

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the following Order was entered at the meeting of the Board on October 9, 1967.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF ORDER - October 19, 1967

ORDERED:

That the appeal for permission to establish a local community organization at 429 T Street, N.W., lots 17 and 18 Square 3090, be conditionally granted.

FINDINGS OF FACT:

1. The subject property is located in an R-4 District.
2. The property is improved with a large 3-story and basement structure.
3. It is proposed that the building be operated as a community center for the residents of the LeDroit Park area and neighborhood.
4. The center is operated by the Committee on Community Improvement and administered by an attorney on leave from the Federal Government.
5. By letter dated September 12, 1967, (BZA Exhibit No. 17) the Board was informed of the following by an associate professor of the Howard University School of Social Work and University Liaison to the Committee on Community Improvement:

"The Community Center has as its purpose:

"To maintain a facility in the LeDroit Park Section of Washington where the citizens of the neighborhood can utilize for programs and projects.

"These planned programs under the guidance of concerned volunteers and staff would afford opportunities for the neighborhood people to develop a sense of citizen responsibility, desirable character and personality traits and leadership abilities.

"The Center has its major concern to help people to become creative, to develop and grow according to their abilities and desires; to be motivated toward positive self-expression and aspiration. The Center, to provide opportunities for personal and group improvement in behavior, goals and values around living, education and preparation for the future.

"In recognition of the concern for community improvement and betterment, Howard University allocated a modest sum to launch the community center program and sanctioned the involvement of the University Community."

6. The community center proposes a wide variety of experiences for the participants. Among them will be arts, crafts, music, sewing, bus trips, bowling, swimming, woodcraft, etc.

7. There are no membership requirements for the youth who attend. Children are registered by their parents and a previous registration signed approximately 270 children.

8. There was vigorous opposition to the granting of this appeal registered at the public hearing. Among the objections were that there would be an aggravated traffic and parking problem, that there would be disorder created by the youth, that there would be an influx of undesirables into the neighborhood, that property values would be diminished, and that there would be a likelihood of rezoning of the area. The record contains 4 letters opposing the appeal and a petition in opposition containing 47 signatures by residents of the area. The petition represents members of the LeDroit Park Citizens Association.

9. The record contains 4 letters supporting this appeal and letters in support from the Oldest Inhabitants, Inc., the minister of Morning Star Baptist Church, 531 T St., N.W. and the principals of the Bell Vocational High School, the Mott and Gage elementary schools.

OPINION:

It is the opinion of this Board that the proposed use is a "community center" as that term is defined in the Zoning Regulations and is so located that the activities will be such that it is not likely to become objectionable to adjoining or nearby property because of noise, traffic, or other objectionable conditions. We further believe that the nature of

---

Appeal No. 9364

-3-

this proposed use is such that the subject premises are reasonably necessary and convenient to the neighborhood that it is designed to serve.

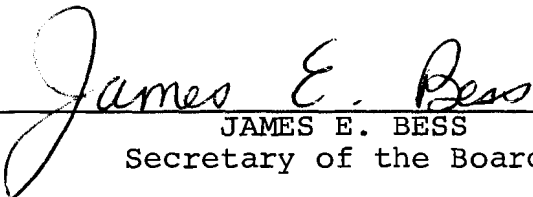
This Order shall be subject to the following condition:

Permit shall issue for a period of one year but shall be subject to renewal in the discretion of the Board upon the filing of a new appeal in the manner prescribed by the Zoning Regulations.

BY ORDER OF THE D.C. BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT

ATTESTED:

By:

  
JAMES E. BESS  
Secretary of the Board

THE ORDER OF THE BOARD IS VALID FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS ONLY UNLESS APPLICATION FOR A BUILDING AND/OR OCCUPANCY PERMIT IS FILED WITH THE DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONS WITHIN A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS ORDER.